

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES



## **DIVISION FOR REGULATORY SERVICES ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER SAFETY SECTION POLICY, STANDARDS, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT PUBLIC HEALTH SANITATION & CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY**

**EHPSQA NO. 005**

### **Recommended Minimum Practices for Ensuring Adequate Water Quality of Water Supplies for Public Pools, Spas, and Public Interactive Water Features**

Some public pools, spas, and public interactive water features and fountains (PIWFs) use water from water wells that do not meet the definition of a public water system or that are not regulated by the TCEQ. The guidelines below are minimum standards accepted by the Department of State Health Services for initial fill and make-up water supplies from water wells that are not regulated by a local authority or by TCEQ, for public pools, spas, and PIWFs.

- 1) Minimum water distribution pressure should not be less than 20 psi.
- 2) Water system operators should submit a minimum of one water sample to test for total coliform, fecal coliform, *E. coli*, or other fecal indicator organisms 30 days prior to opening the pool, spa, or PIWF for the season; or, if the pool, spa or PIWF is open longer than 6 months a water sample should be submitted once every 6 months.
- 3) Testing for microbial contaminants should be performed at a laboratory certified by the TCEQ.
- 4) If a routine distribution coliform sample is coliform-positive the initial fill water or the make-up water should be treated with sufficient sanitizer to meet minimum sanitizer levels as required in 25 TAC Section 265.204(a), referring to Water quality in post-10/01/99 and pre-10/01/99 pools and spas, or in 25 TAC Section 265.306(c), referring to Disinfectant and cyanuric acid levels in PIWFs, as applicable.
- 5) A water sample from the entry point to the distribution system should be submitted to a laboratory for chemical analysis at least once every 3 years and should be tested for secondary constituent levels as follows:

CONSTITUENT	MAXIMUM LEVEL (mg/l except where otherwise stated)
Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2
Chloride	300
Color	15 color units
Copper	1.0
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive
Fluoride	2.0
Foaming agents	0.5
Hydrogen sulfide	0.05
Iron	0.3
Manganese	0.05
Odor	3 Threshold Odor Number
pH	>7.0
Silver	0.1
Sulfate	300
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000
Zinc	5.0

6) Records of all testing should be kept on site for a minimum of 3 years.

7) No sanitary sewers or septic tanks should be allowed within a distance of 50 feet of any well used to provide water for a public pool, spa, or PIWF. No cesspool or septic tank open jointed drainfield should be allowed within a distance of 150 feet of any well used to provide water to a public pool, spa, or PIWF.

8) There should be no storm water incursion into the water distribution system for a public pool, spa, or PIWF.

Copies of the Standards for Public Swimming Pools and Spas and the rules for Public Interactive Water Features and Fountains can be found at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/poolspa/rules.shtm>

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